

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01969 271113Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /126 W

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R 270932Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3057

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJ: ROK EDITORIAL REACTION TO NORTH KOREAN PEACE

PROPOSAL

1. ROK PRESS MARCH 27 HAS CONTINUED TO COMMENT ON HO TAM'S MARCH 25 PROPOSAL FOR PEACE AGREEMENT WITH US. EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED IN MOST NEWSPAPERS CRITICIZING THE PROPOSAL AS A PROPAGANDA MOVE DESIGNED TO DIVIDE THE US AND THE ROK AND TO UNDERMINE THE ROK'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION. PRESS STATES THAT PROPOSAL IS RELATED TO NORTH'S STRATEGY FOR UPCOMING UNGA, ALTHOUGH POSSIBLE EFFECT ON KOREAN QUESTION AT UN IS NOT SPELLED OUT.

2. EDITORIALS POINT OUT THAT US STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S REACTION TO PROPOSAL WAS NEGATIVE BUT WAS NOT AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION. MOST PAPERS STRESS THAT SPOKESMAN SAID KOREAN QUESTION SHOULD BE SETTLED BY KOREANS THEMSELVES. HOWEVER IT WAS NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD PROBABLY WAIT TO SEE WHAT NEXT NORTH KOREAN MOVE WILL BE. TONGA ILBO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ROK'S MAJOR ALLIES INCLUDING US WILL NOT BE DELUDED BY NORTH KOREANS MOVE AND WILL REFRAIN FROM UNILATERAL ACTION.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01969 271113Z

3. KYONGHYANG SHINMUN EDITORIAL SAYS US MAY BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR ENCOURAGING NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL,
AS FOLLOWING LAST UNGA THE US REFERRED TO AN ALTERNATIVE
TO PRESENT ARMISTICE SYSTEM. EDITORIAL ALSO NOTES SECRETARY'S
DEC 6 COMMENTS INDICATING US IS READY TO DISCUSS WITH ROK
AND OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED REGARDING REVISION OF THE ARMISTICE
TO SUIT THE PRESENT SITUATION.
HABIB

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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